REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of February 6, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 8-14 have been examined, with claims 12-14 indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and claims 8-11 as rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Critten et al. In addition to the rejection of claims 8-12 as indicated, claim 8 is also objected to because of the phrase "by design".

Claim 8 has been amended to delete the phrase "by design". It has been amended to delete the phrase "is separated" in line 9, as it is redundant.

New claims 15 and 16 have been added which are claims 12 and 13 in independent form. Claim 14 is then amended to depend from new claim 15. Accordingly, claim 14 and new claims 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

As to the rejection of claims 8-12 under 35 USC 102(b) by Critten et al., it is respectfully submitted that this patent is rather far removed from the subject matter of the present invention so that the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a relative pressure sensor or differential pressure sensor, where a first and second input pressure are transferred by first and second hydraulic path, respectively. It is the purpose of the present invention to alleviate effects of thermal expansion due to asymmetry between the first and second hydraulic path by ensuring that product of the respective diaphragm stiffness, the respective coefficient of thermal expansion of the transfer fluid in the hydraulic path, and the respective volume of the hydraulic path is equal for both, the first and second hydraulic paths in spite of differences between the individual factors. The Critten et al. patent does not achieve this objective. Critten et al. employs a different method to alleviate temperature effects which requires that the enclosure, which defines the volume of a hydraulic path, comprises an external part formed of a first material and the internal part formed of a second material whose coefficient of thermal expansion is less than the coefficient of thermal expansion of the first material. By means of this construction, it is possible that the free volume of the enclosure which is differential volume between the external part and the internal part, has an effective coefficient of thermal expansion, which

corresponds to the coefficient of the thermal expansion of a transfer fluid enclosed therein. Thus, the separating diaphragms do not have to accommodate any transfer fluid due to thermal expansion, because the expanding fluid is accommodated within the volume of the hydraulic path between the external part and the internal part. However, if the separating diaphragms do not have to accommodate any transfer fluid to thermal expansion at all, the asymmetry between the first hydraulic path and a second hydraulic path simply is not an issue, and it is not addressed by Critten et al.

Clearly, Critten et al. suggest a quite different approach to alleviate temperature effects, and a person having ordinary skill in the art has no need to look to Critten et al. to arrive at the subject matter of the present invention. Accordingly, claims 8 - 11 should be allowed with claims 14-16.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 8-11, and 14-16 allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
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